



California Department of Fish and Game

Deer Management Program

2008 Deer Zone Information

Wildlife Branch
1812 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95811

General Deer Hunting Information For

ZONE B-4

(No Additional Hunts Scheduled)

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DEER HUNT ZONE

This information sheet has been prepared to assist deer hunters applying for, or planning to hunt in, Zone B-4 located in portions of Mendocino and Humboldt counties. The following information should be useful to hunters for archery and general seasons as well as any "additional hunts" within this geographic area. For more specific information or additional questions regarding this area, contact the following Department office(s):

Northern Region Office (Region 1), 601 Locust Street, Redding, CA 96001 (530-225-2300)
encompassing Del Norte, Humboldt, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama and Trinity counties.

REGULATIONS

Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the current hunting regulations available online at:
<http://www.fgc.ca.gov/regulations/current/mammalregs.asp>

The 2008 deer hunting regulations specific for Zone B-4 (archery and general season) and any additional hunts are at the end of this sheet. To hunt deer in Zone B-4, hunters must possess a "B" zone deer tag. This tag is valid during the archery or general season using the appropriate method of take in either: Zone B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5 or B-6. Season dates vary between these zones, so be sure to check the current regulations for the zone you plan to hunt.

Additionally, Archery Only #1 Tags (AO#1) and Archery Only #2 Tags (AO#2) are valid during the Zone B-4 archery or general season using archery equipment only.

Any additional deer hunts in Zone B-4 are listed in the Additional Deer Hunts section, below. Typically, tags for additional deer hunts are in high demand and distributed through the Department's Big Game Drawing held in June. To receive tags for many of these hunts, hunters must plan ahead and are encouraged to submit deer tag applications by late May. For information regarding deer tag application procedures and obtaining a deer tag for this area, see the 2008 Hunting Digest, available on-line at:
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/biggame/biggamebook.html>

Successful hunters are reminded to immediately fill out both portions of the tag and permanently mark the date of kill; record the appropriate "B" zone (Zone B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5 or B-6) where they killed their buck; attach the tag to the antlers, or ear if antlerless; have the tag validated and countersigned; and return the completed report card portion to the Department within 30 days of taking a deer.

LAND OWNERSHIP/PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES

Zone B-4 contains a high proportion of private land and except for BLM lands, access is limited. Remember you must obtain and have in your possession written permission to hunt on private property.

Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced. Public lands within the zone are administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), King Range Conservation Area (KRCA). For information regarding these lands contact the following:

BLM Offices:

Arcata Field Office, 1695 Heindon Road, Arcata, California 95521-4573 (707-825-2300)
Ukiah Field Office, 2550 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482 (707-468-4000)

In Zone B-4 and other zones throughout California, additional deer hunting opportunities may exist on private property licensed through the Department's Private Lands Management Program (PLM). For more information on the PLM and to obtain a list of participating ranches, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/plm.html>

Reminder: Lands within the Humboldt Redwoods State Park are closed to hunting.

MAPS

For general maps detailing individual zone or additional deer hunt boundaries, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/zonemapsinfo.html>

The most comprehensive maps of the area are the BLM surface management maps including the Cape Mendocino, Eureka, Garberville and the KRCA map. You can purchase these maps at BLM district offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916-978-4400).

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, are very helpful, especially for topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM maps. USGS maps may be available from sporting goods, backpacking or engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly at: Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, Branch of Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (888-ASK-USGS).

ACCESS/MAJOR ROADS

Because there is a lot of private land in Zone B-4, public access is extremely limited. The primary roadways in Zone B-4 are State Highway 101 (eastern B-4), Ferndale, Petrolia and Honeydew Roads. The best access to KRCA is from Honeydew, but most BLM roads are unmarked.

WEATHER CONDITIONS/TRAVEL TIPS

The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. The weather is usually quite hot and dry, but early storms are not uncommon. Snow fall will be a rare occurrence with these storms but heavy rains can make many roads very difficult, if not impossible, to travel. You should be prepared with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.

Zone B-4 covers a large geographic area. The terrain can be very steep and rugged and vegetation can be extremely dense. As you should do in all remote areas, hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good spare tire, extra water, etc. Use care when operating any vehicle off-road and check with the BLM for rules and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area. Horses can be useful in some portions of B-4. However, remember that it may be necessary to carry supplemental horse feed into the back country. Contact the local BLM office for more information regarding forage conditions for livestock.

CAMPING

There are a few designated campgrounds in the KRCA's southern end. The campgrounds are dry with pit or chemical toilets. Most campgrounds are clearly marked on BLM maps. Camping outside of designated campgrounds is usually permitted on BLM lands. However, during fire season special regulations may apply and it will be necessary to obtain a fire permit from the BLM. You can also check with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection office for rules in specific areas.

Please, DO NOT camp or hunt for prolonged periods near water sources important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining for over 30 minutes and within 200 yards of an artificial water source including

guzzlers or horizontal wells on public lands within California is a Fish and Game violation (Title 14, Section 730). You can pack water, wildlife can't.

HARVEST INFORMATION

Information on deer harvest for this area is available in tables contained in the annual Deer Kill Reports available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/deerhunt.html> The most useful tables for the purposes of planning or applying for hunts in this area are Tables 1b (Harvest and Success Information), 2a (Antler Class Information) and 10b (Drawing Statistics).

HERD CONDITIONS AND HABITATS

The deer population in Zone B-4 is considered stable to slightly declining, yet considerably below levels seen in the late 1960's and 1970's. As with most deer herds in California and other western states, the long-term population trend has been on a steady decline since the 1960's and 1970's. These long-term declines have been due to land management practices that have precluded fire, resulting in changes toward more mature and less diverse habitats, and reduced quality and quantity of deer habitats. Short-term fluctuations in deer populations are usually attributed to weather events that affect forage production.

The subspecies of deer inhabiting Zone B-4 is the Columbian black-tailed deer. Deer in Zone B-4 are generally considered resident deer. That is, their movement is up and down the slopes, they do not make long seasonal migrations. The deer in this area generally move to higher elevations in late spring and will remain there until the first heavy fall storms force them down below the snow line. This downward movement often occurs during the hunting season, so hunters should be prepared to move to lower areas later in the season after stormy weather.

The vegetation is highly varied throughout Zone B-4 ranging from coastal scrub, mixed chaparral, oak-woodland and hardwood-conifer to dense conifer habitats. Generally speaking, deer populations in this area respond favorably to vegetation disturbances that enhance brush species (wildfire and timber harvesting). Riparian areas (areas along watercourses), recently burned areas or clear cuts that have re-sprouted with brush are good areas to hunt. Areas where oaks are producing acorns may also attract deer. Typically, lower densities of deer are observed in the more densely forested areas or in older, more decadent brushlands.

HUNTING TIPS AND WHERE TO LOOK FOR DEER

Successful hunters often spend a considerable amount of time scouting pre-season, locating individual or groups of deer, recently used deer trails, and feeding and bedding areas. You may not see many deer from the roads in this area and generally the more successful hunters do more hiking to locate deer. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes can be very helpful for locating and identifying deer at greater distances. In general, attempt to hunt areas that are away from other activities such as concentrations of hunters, vehicles, and/or livestock.

The southern half of Zone B-4 is very steep and for that reason the northern portion of the zone tends to be easier to hunt. Public land access is limited in this zone, but generally the best hunting areas are located along the coast, the King Range Conservation Area, and around Honeydew, Ettersburg and Shelter Cove.

For additional information about deer hunting in California, see the Department's publication "Guide To Hunting Deer In California" at the following web site:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/docs/deerguide.pdf>

ADDITIONAL DEER HUNTS

In 2008, there are no additional deer hunts scheduled in Zone B-4.

2008 ZONE AND ADDITIONAL HUNT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

§ 360. Deer.

Except as otherwise provided in this Title 14, deer may be taken only as follows:

(a) A, B, C, and D Zone Hunts.

(2) Zone B.

(A) Area: Shall include all of Zones B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5 and B-6 (see subsections 360(a)(2)(A) 1-6).

4. Zone B-4.

In those portions of Mendocino and Humboldt counties within a line beginning at the mouth of Hardy Creek and the Pacific Ocean; north along the Pacific coastline to the mouth of the Eel River; east and south along the main Eel River to the South Fork of the Eel River; south along the South Fork of the Eel River to state Highway 1 at Leggett; west on state Highway 1 to Hardy Creek; west along Hardy Creek to the point of beginning.

(B) Season: The seasons for the B Zone shall be those specified for the areas described as B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5 and B-6 (see subsections 360(a)(2)(B)1-6).

4. Zone B-4.

The season in Zone B-4 shall open on the fourth Saturday in August and extend for 37 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 55,500. Zone B tags are valid in Zones B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5 and B-6

§ 361. Archery Deer Hunting.

(a) Archery Hunting With General Deer Zone Tags. Deer may be taken during the archery season only with archery equipment specified in Section 354 as follows:

(2) B Zones.

(B) Zone B-4.

1. Area: As described in subsection 360(a)(2)(A)4.

2. Season: The archery deer season in Zone B-4 shall open on the fourth Saturday in July and extend for 23 consecutive days.

3. Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better per tag.

(c) Archery Hunting with Archery Only Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, during the archery seasons and general seasons as follows:

(1) Number of Archery Only Tags Permitted. A person may obtain an archery only tag using a one-deer tag application and a second archery only tag using a second deer tag application.

(2) Zones in Which Archery Only Tags are Valid. An archery only tag is valid for hunt G-10, and during the archery season and general season in all zones except C-1 through C-4 and X-1 through X-12.

(3) Areas: As described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(4) Seasons: The archery season and general seasons are provided in subsection 361(a) above and in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(5) Bag and Possession Limit: All bag and possession limits per zone are the same as those described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(d) Hunting Area Limitations. Archers not in possession of an archery only tag may hunt only in the zone, zones, or areas for which they have a general tag or an area-specific archery tag. (Refer to subsection 361(c)(2) for zones in which archery only tags are valid).

(e) Crossbow Prohibition. Except as provided in subsection 354(j), crossbows may not be used during any archery season or during the general season when using an archery only tag.

**** GOOD LUCK! ****